

King County Mobility Coalition

DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5th Avenue, Rm 4080

In attendance: Tatyana Doar, Sylvia Fuerstenberg, Pam Haithcox Eggleston, Melony Joyce, Rick Krauss, Mary Pat Lawlor, Ref Lindmark, Jacqueline Mann, Michael Miller, Polly Nelson, Alex O'Reilly, Pam Piering, Bob Sahm, George Smith, Courty Stanton, Ruth Tolmasoff, Linda Wells, Michelle Zeidman, Cindy Zwart.

Welcome and Introductions

- Cindy Zwart (Senior Services) noted that February 18 is Senior Lobby Day in Olympia and that they have appointments with approximately 25 to 30 legislators.
- Courty Stanton introduced himself as a representative of the City of Redmond.
- Ref Lindmark (King County Metro) noted that service changes were made on February 6, including additional changes to bus service in South King County along the light rail line.
- Jacque Mann (Puget Sound Education Services District) shared that February 18 is early childhood advocacy day and that proposed cuts to ECAP would impact their programs.
- Bob Sahm (King County Metro) brought brochures about the Green River flooding to share, noting that it will be several years before the dam is ready. *Additional copies of these brochures can be requested from Bob Sahm (Bob.Sahm@kingcounty.gov, (206) 205-6577) or Melony Joyce (Melony.Joyce@kingcounty.gov, (206) 205-6576).*
- Melony Joyce (King County Metro) shared that this Friday they will be testing the rear-facing wheelchair securement area for RapidRide. They have five wheelchair users lined up to the testing and can accommodate another two users. *Please contact Melony if you know anyone who would like to participate in the testing on Friday.*

ORCA Update & Discussion

Ref Lindmark provided an update on ORCA and answered questions:

- Recent improvements made to help people with a Regional Reduced Fare Pass, include: (1) hiring additional customer service representatives (whose positions were previously frozen) to increase staffing at the King Street station; (2) creating an express window for seniors who do not need a photo on their RRFP; (3) providing greeters at the King Street and Westlake Center stations to help customers select the appropriate customer service line; (4) providing chairs for customers awaiting service at the King Street station; (5) creating and distributing a RRFP informational poster; and (6) creating and mailing a RRFP informational postcard to 27,000 RRFP users.
- Metro is working to increase retail sales outlets for ORCA and that some Safeway locations will be able to reload ORCA cards. Once these locations have been established, Ref will forward a list of the locations to Michelle Zeidman to send to the Coalition.
- Seniors who have a current RRFP sticker, ride the bus infrequently, pay cash and do not transfer to Sound Transit, do not need to convert to ORCA. They can continue using their existing RRFP sticker card.

- Metro is putting together a road team that can go to sites, take people's photos for the RRFP ORCA cards and then mail the cards to the people. This type of service was recently offered at the Lighthouse for the Blind and will be working with Circle of Friends to host a similar event at their offices. *Please contact Ref Lindmark (ref.lindmark@kingcounty.gov, (206) 684-1104) if your agency is interested in having the ORCA road team come to your site.*
- Pam Haithcox Eggleston (Harborview Medical Center) asked about disposable ORCA cards. Ref Lindmark noted that these cards are still being developed and that paper bus tickets (good for Metro and Sound Transit) will continue to be available to Human Service agencies until a disposable ORCA card is created. Regular paper bus tickets (purchased via retail outlets by the general public) are now valid only for Metro service.
- Cindy Zwart asked about the possibility of seniors getting their ORCA RRFP cards via the mail. Ref Lindmark responded that seniors (since they do not require a photo) can get their ORCA card in the mail by sending in their existing RRFP card. This process can take 2-3 weeks, so it best for seniors who ride infrequently.
- Michael Miller (Sound Transit) noted that youth who want a RRFP ORCA card will need to go to the King Street center to get it.
- Michael Miller shared that the fee for ORCA cards will continue to be waived until March 1. *Agencies that have special circumstances and need free no-fare-loaded ORCA cards can contact Ref Lindmark (ref.lindmark@kingcounty.gov, (206) 684-1104) or Michael Miller (michael.miller@soundtransit.org, (206) 689-4927).* For example, Rick Krauss (DSHS) shared that the WorkFirst program got help from Metro with regard to no-fare-loaded cards.
- Rick Krauss shared that the limited number of locations where ORCA cards can be loaded in King County is an issue, particularly in South and East King County. He also noted that the commuter bonus voucher cards used by many human service agencies will continue to be available, pending a replacement (disposable ORCA card).
- Jacque Mann shared that they got ORCA cards for their community jobs program and successfully developed a tracking system for dealing with the cards.
- Linda Wells (King County Department of Community & Human Services) shared that they helped connect Metro Transit with Aging and Disability Services' newsletter to get the word out about ORCA.

Mobility Manager Update

- Michelle Zeidman shared that the Coalition sent letters to Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn and King County Executive Dow Constantine, and will be scheduling meetings with them.
- Michelle also noted that she has been tracking the WSDOT and PSRC grant cycles and will keep the Coalition apprised of information as it becomes available.
- Michelle asked the Coalition for thoughts on how to handle ongoing updates to the recently approved Inventory of Services.
 - Michael Miller suggested updating the Inventory quarterly and emailing contacts for all services listed to ask for updates. Any that fail to respond should be removed from the inventory.
 - Michael also suggested noting on the Coalition's website and in the Inventory document that it is updated quarterly.

- Mary Pat Lawlor (PSRC) noted that the Inventory of Services included in the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan will be updated annually.
- Action Item: please send agency contacts and/or email addresses to Michelle Zeidman. These will be used to create a single distribution list for announcing updates to the Inventory of Services.

December 15, 2009 Meeting Minutes

- Decision: the Coalition approved the December 15, 2009 meeting minutes as written.

Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan Update

- Mary Pat Lawlor (PSRC) distributed a summary of Transportation 2040.
- Mary Pat noted that Transportation 2040 and the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan have been released for public comment. Comments received by 3/9 will be reported to the Transportation Policy Board. Comments received by 3/19 will be reported to the Executive Board. Comments will be accepted until the general assembly meeting in May.
- Mary Pat noted that they have received feedback on the need to better integrate WSDOT's Consolidated Grant program and PSRC's Coordinated Grant program. PSRC has been working with Don Chartock at WSDOT to coordinate their grant cycles. There will be a grant workshop on Monday, March 1 for the upcoming WSDOT and PSRC grant cycles, held at PSRC's offices and available remotely via GoToMeeting and the telephone. At this workshop, they will cover WSDOT and PSRC processes and timelines.
- Action Item: Mary Pat noted the importance of communicating the linkages between Transportation 2040 and the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan to elected officials. Please send her your thoughts on the top 5 points that she should share with elected officials (mlawlor@psrc.org). Anything received by 3/9 will be included in the presentation to the Transportation Policy Board.
- Mary Pat also shared that PSRC is working on the second phase of their environmental justice public outreach, which will consist of five meetings (two in King County). Meeting notices for these will be sent as they are scheduled. Accommodations will be provided to attendees upon request. People can also make public comments in person at the Transportation Policy Board and Executive Board meetings in March.
- Michael Miller suggested including information about cuts to Kitsap Transit and Community Transit service in the briefing to the Transportation Policy Board.
- Action Item: please contact Mary Pat Lawlor (mlawlor@psrc.org, (206) 971-3280) if you see any incorrect information in the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan, especially with regard to the smart corridors descriptions.
- Mary Pat noted that the Coordinated Plan is a stand alone plan (even though it is included as an appendix to Transportation 2040) and can be updated separately.
- Ref Lindmark shared that it is important to focus on moving *people*, rather than vehicles. Mary Pat noted that this perspective has been included in the Transportation 2040.
- Ref also noted that by increasing transportation choices, we can lower people's transportation costs and therefore increase their income available for other expenses.
- Mary Pat confirmed that it would be helpful to have stories about the high percentage of people's income spent on transportation, as suggested by Polly Nelson.

2010 Work Plan & Subcommittees Discussion

The Coalition reviewed the draft work plan and proposed subcommittees:

- *Technology Subcommittee:*
 - George Smith (City of Shoreline), Pam Haithcox Eggleston, Bob Sahm and Ref Lindmark weighed in on the potential role of new technology, particularly with regard to the abundance of existing cell phone apps, the varying access among people with special transportation needs to such technology, the ability to empower people via technology, the potential for creating social networks for answering questions about transportation options, and the opportunity to advocate for website features that would help people with special transportation needs.
 - Ref Lindmark volunteered to join the Technology Subcommittee.
- *Government Affairs Working Group:*
 - Action Item: the group will provide input on the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan and draft 5 top points about the plan to share with elected officials.
 - Action Item: please send comments on Transportation 2040 or the Coordinated Transit-Human Services Plan to Bob Sahm (bob.sahm@kingcounty.gov) to be included in the Coalition's draft comment letter.
 - Ref Lindmark suggested that the working group present a coordinated argument to the King County Public Transit Task Force (currently being formed).
 - Action Item: Bob Sahm and Melony Joyce requested that Cindy Zwart, Ruth Tolmasoff, Harborview, Circle of Friends, and Jacque Mann send stories related to their programs to Bob (bob.sahm@kingcounty.gov), which can be used to illustrate the importance of their services and a diversity of transportation options for people with special transportation needs.
 - Alex O'Reilly (City of Bellevue) noted that the Eastside Easy Rider Collaborative (EERC) will probably weigh in on Transportation 2040.
 - Michael Miller suggested that the working group also weigh in on Sound Transit's East Link route options.
- *Targeted Outreach Subcommittee:*
 - Melony Joyce (King County Metro) requested that we add transit instruction to the outreach plan under Goal 3, Strategy A, work plan item (a).
 - Cindy Zwart volunteered to join the Targeted Outreach Subcommittee.
- *Membership Subcommittee:* Alex explained the purpose of this committee and volunteered to lead it and recruit members.
- *Livable Communities Subcommittee:* Alex shared that Margaret Casey (City of Seattle) brought this issue to our attention and has been volunteered to work on the subcommittee.
 - George Smith suggested that the subcommittee review PSRC's work on this topic.
 - Pam Piering (City of Seattle) noted that Neal Peirce's recent article the *Seattle Times* provides context for this subcommittee's work:
http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/opinion/2011060261_peirce16.html

State Legislative Update

- Pam Piering provided an update on the state legislature. The senate budget and the Governor's revenue package may be released this week. By the end of next week, we will have a better idea of the proposed revenue package, including what the legislators are willing to support. The "easy" revenue sources, such as closing tax loopholes, could

provide about \$200 million; in order to fund the \$780 million in buy backs, new revenue sources will be needed. The Governor's buy back list includes \$7 million for the Senior Citizens Services Act.

- Pam noted that a legislator recently told her that they need to hear something 20 times in order for it to register.
- Alex shared that she was in Olympia last week for United Way's lobby day and that she watched the House floor session. A legislator noted on the floor that he got 25 emails from his constituents about an issue and he was using that as a reason for why he wasn't voting for the bill, affirming the importance of contacting our legislators.

Next Steps

- The next full coalition meeting is Tuesday, May 18.
- Announcements for subcommittee meetings will be sent to the entire Coalition.

Agendas, minutes and handouts from past Coalition meeting are available online at:
<http://metro.kingcounty.gov/tops/kccsnt/agendas-minutes.html>